

**1. Thank you so much**



Our "premium supporters" Sabrina Babijak and Björn Schleifer from WOW! Würth Online World donated 16 refurbished snoopers to us. Our six trainers are allowed to use them and also sell them to interested parties. This will enable us to organise further seminars and make the necessary investments. Unfortunately, the snoopers could not yet be activated, as an undersea cable broke on 14<sup>th</sup> March, leaving almost no internet connection available for several countries in West Africa. Finally, on 10<sup>th</sup> May the complicated repair was completed.

Many thanks also to all private donors. No flights are paid from the donations for the members of the organisation, 100% of the donations are going directly to the projects, without administrative costs. Our accounts are checked both in Ghana and in Germany (here via Forum Afrikanum e.V.).



The excitement about the Snoopers was huge

## **2. General Assembly**

A general meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> February. As Uli and Wolfgang only wish to remain available on advisory function, a new board had to be elected.

- The new first chairman is John Kwasi Afriyie, PhD, MGHIE. He is a Professor in the Department of Automotive and Agric Mechanisation Engineering at Kumasi Technical University (KsTU), specialised in renewable energy, thermofluids, machine maintenance and repairs. He is an external examiner for post-graduate courses in the faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Kwame Nkruma University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Prof Afriyie is a member of the Ghana Institution of Engineering (GhIE) and currently the GhIE representative on the Regional Tender Review Committee of the Ashanti Regional Coordinating Council. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Ramseyer Vocational/Technical Institute in Kumasi. From 1994 to 1997, he studied at the University of Stuttgart and obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering.
- The second chairman is our master trainer Evans Addison Ato. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Kwame Nkruma University of Science and Technology ("KNUST") in 2022. He previously completed an apprenticeship as a car mechanic and has been senior trainer at Ghatronic since 2019, organising seminars, playing a key role in the curricula and looking at the needed teaching material.
- Charles Owusu Marfo remains Secretary, Treasurer and "Beneficiary of Owner of the Organisation" (roughly Managing Director). He also studied in Germany, from 1993 to 1996 in Bremen and Stuttgart, graduating with a master's degree in economics.
- John and Wolfgang continue to be the two cash auditors.

## **3. Engineering Day**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, the event was held at the TCC Centre, in the middle of the Suame car repair and mechanic's centre. As our trainers were employed there in 2023 to train car mechanics, we were also invited. In addition to the Director of TCC, the Director of TVET and other VIPs, around 100 students from Suame Technical Secondary School attended the event. There were information stands from various organisations. After the speeches, the students were able to visit the information booths and it was interesting that the female students were very interested in hands-on training and internship opportunities at Ghatronic. So it was that TVET Ashanti Regional Director Richard Addo Gyamfi invited us to International Women's Day.



The TCC Centre is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

Two of our trainers, Chris and Gabi, continue to train at the TCC Centre. They are now employed by the University KNUST. There are still some disagreements between the sponsor GIZ and the TCC, but our coaches and we in the Association are confident that the great equipment and the opportunities on site can be used to benefit everyone.



#### 4. International Women's Day Celebration at TVET Directorate in Kumasi

Uli was one of the speakers there, alongside other women who are working successfully in male-dominated professions. All of them showed the students that they have every opportunity to choose a career, even if society initially prejudices gender roles. The presentation by Harriet Osei Antwi, who is employed by the Canadian organisation WUSC for Ghana, was very interesting and encouraged the female students and she promised to support them.

We presented the TVET Ashanti Regional Director Richard Addo Gyamfi our concept for "young women in digital car repair" and emphasised the importance of a closer practical connection to technical training.



See attachment: Concept ideas female.pdf

**5. Certificate of Ghatronic**

On 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the moment finally came: the long-awaited local certificate has arrived!  
Now we are eagerly waiting for the national certificate...



## 6. Further development of Ghatronic

We are still looking for organisations of car mechanics that already exist in Ghana. In addition to the Ghana National Garage Association (GNAG), we have contacted the Association of Automobile Artisans Ghana (Auto GH). This contact will enable us to achieve our goal of offering seminars throughout Ghana faster, in cooperation with these organisations.

As part of an internal training programme for our trainers, we started to create a seminar on the topic of "Energy-responsible driving". The mode of driving and small modifications such as higher tyre pressure already result in considerable fuel savings. This also puts environmental protection on the agenda.

Sabrina from WOW! Würth Online World offered us an air conditioning service unit. Everyone can imagine how important a functioning air conditioning system is in Ghana. Our trainer Chris, who has often repaired and maintained makeshift air conditioning systems, was immediately enthusiastic. We will be starting air conditioning servicing in Kumasi this year, either in Evan's workshop or at the TCC, and we will also create seminar materials and offering training courses on this topic. We are currently looking for the most favourable transport option, this device is too big to fit into a suitcase...

## 7. Abbreviations, details and links:

**WOW! Würth Online World GmbH.** [www.wow-portal.com/web/de/wow/index.php](http://www.wow-portal.com/web/de/wow/index.php)

**ATTC:** Accra Technical Training Centre. <https://attcghana.com/>

**GIZ:** The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is an Organisation of the Federal Republic of Germany that operates internationally on behalf of various German ministries. <https://www.giz.de/de/html/index.html>

**KNUST:** Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. <https://www.knust.edu.gh/>

**SES:** Senior Expert Service (SES). [www.ses-bonn.de](http://www.ses-bonn.de)

Foundation of German Industries for International Cooperation - Non-profit organisation

**Suame Magazine:** Industrial area in the Kumasi region with many workshops for metal technology and vehicle repairs, employing approximately 200,000 people

**ITTU Suame:** Intermediate Technology Transfer Unit. Training centre in Suame Magazine.

**SMIDO:** Suame Magazine Industrial Development Organization. SMIDO was founded by the various associations that are active in and around Suame Magazine. <https://www.smido.org/>

**TCC:** Technology Competence Centre of KNUST. <https://tcc.knust.edu.gh/>

**TVET:** Technical and Vocational Education and Training, <https://moe.gov.gh>

**WUSC:** Canadian NGO, <https://wusc.ca>